



Message from the Longer Life Foundation Leadership Team

Welcome to the May 2025 issue of the Longer Life Foundation newsletter. Our goal is to keep our subscribers informed with periodic updates on the Foundation's initiatives, research, and events.

With the industry facing unprecedented change across medicine, technology and regulation; and with the current challenges in the funding environment for researchers, the work LLF does is critical.

At its core, LLF is dedicated to supporting junior investigators who push the boundaries of our understanding of human health and medicine. These studies are not just academic exercises; they help form the basis for advancements with far-reaching implications, deepening our understanding of wellbeing and longevity. We are proud to showcase the success of some of our grantees in our Spotlight section of the newsletter and look forward to sharing more of their impactful work.

Also, if this newsletter was forwarded to you by a colleague, we invite you to subscribe [here](#) to stay up to date.

Thank you,

Preeti Dalawari



Preeti Dalawari, MD, MSPH, DBIM
Managing Director, Longer Life Foundation
Vice President and Medical Director, USIL, RGA



Joesph Zhang, PhD
Deputy Director, Longer Life Foundation
Vice President & Actuary, Enterprise Risk Analytics, RGA

Spring Advisory Group Meeting Highlights



We received an unprecedented 48 of letters of intent this year from a variety of medical departments and schools within the WashU system, including the McKelvey School of Engineering and Brown School. We were excited to see the expansion of the applicant pool and the variety of topics.

The Scientific Review Committee presented its recommendations to the Advisory Group on April 22. After much deliberation, 10 applicants were invited to submit full proposals. We also expect several current grantees to apply for a second year of funding.

Grand Rounds to Feature Nathan Stitzel, MD, PhD



LLF continues to sponsor Grand Rounds at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. On September 25 at 8 am, Dr. Stitzel will present "Leveraging (mis)fortunes of the human genome to advance cardiovascular therapuetics".

[Dr. Stitzel](#) is a WashU Medicine Professor of Medicine and Genetics where he focuses on the inherited basis of cardiovascular disease at the intersection of computational biology and human genetics. A link to the recorded presentation will be shared following the event.

Spotlight on LLF Researchers

Rita Brookheart, PhD:

- Invited to speak at the 85th American Diabetes Association Scientific Sessions Meeting on June 20. Dr. Brookheart’s session is titled: “Skeletal Muscle Dysfunction in Metabolic Disease.”

Eva Klinman, MD, PhD:

- Invited to present at the national ADRC meeting in San Francisco, May 4 - 7. Dr. Klinman was selected to present a poster on her research titled “Evaluating Age-dependent Autophagosome Functional Loss and Changes in Tau Distribution Using Directly Reprogrammed Human Neurons,” as well as attend a grant workshop in conjunction with the conference.

Elizabeth Pollina, PhD:

- Named as a [winner of the 2025 MIND Prize](#). This award supports research by early- to mid-career investigators who are making innovative and cutting-edge contributions to the understanding, prevention and treatment of neurodegenerative conditions, such as Alzheimer’s disease. This funding will support the development of molecular tools and animal models to identify new ways to prevent or repair DNA damage across the brain’s diverse cell types.

Lindsay Underhill, MPH, PhD:

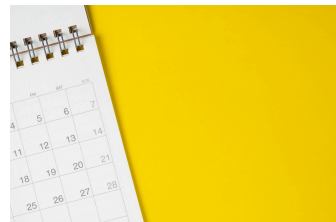
- Spoke at WashU’s Graduate Student Interdisciplinary Environmental Research Dinner on Air Quality and Health: From Global to Local with a session title of “Air Quality and Health: Global Problems, Local Solutions.”

LLF at ICLAM

LLF was pleased to provide an educational grant to support the International Committee for Insurance Medicine (ICLAM) 2025 Conference, held recently in Estoril, Portugal. The Longer Life Foundation shared booth space with RGA and welcomed attendees to learn more about the LLF’s mission and the important research we support at WashU in St. Louis.

When asked about the experience, Dr. Dan Zimmerman, former LLF Managing Director, shared: “The ICLAM 2025 conference delegates had great interest in learning about the LLF as it was new for most of them, especially those from outside the US.”

(Photo: Dr. Adela Osman and Dr. Dan Zimmerman seated at the LLF booth at ICLAM.)



Mark Your Calendars

LLF’s Advisory Group will virtually meet on August 12 at 8:30 am to review the 2025 grant application pool. This meeting is always a highlight, offering a glimpse into the latest thinking from junior and experienced researchers on current clinical and public health issues. Please accept the Zoom invite if you haven’t already; we look forward to your participation.



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